

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Claims 1-5, 7-20, and 22-27 remain in the subject patent application. Claims 1, 12, 13, and 27 are amended and claims 6 and 21 are canceled herein. Claims 28-42 were canceled in an earlier paper. No claims are added herein. Claims 1 and 13 were amended by incorporating into them the limitations of claims 6 and 21, respectively. Claims 12 and 27 were written in independent form by incorporating into them all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added herein.

II. Remarks Directed to the Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 12, 21, and 27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were identified by the Office Action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

As suggested by the Office Action, claims 12 and 27 have been written in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Similarly, claims 6 and 21 have been canceled herein and the limitations of those claims have been incorporated into claims 1 and 13, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1, 12, 13, and 27 are all in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5, 7-11, 14-20, and 22-26 depend either from claim 1 or claim 13 and are thus each allowable based at least in part on this dependence from an allowable claim. Thus all of the pending claims are thought to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

No fees are believed to be due by virtue of the filing of this paper. However, if it is determined that any fees are in fact due, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicant invites Examiner Doty to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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